

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 5.

In line 1 of Claim 6, please delete "5" and insert --1-- in place thereof.

1. (Twice amended) An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel, wherein said blood processing channel comprises first and second channel sidewalls, wherein said channel housing further comprises a blood-related port slot which intersects with one of said first and second channel sidewalls and a recess formed on said one of said first and second channel sidewalls and containing at least part of said blood-related port slot, wherein said support of said blood processing vessel is positioned within said recess.

7. (Twice amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel,
wherein said blood processing vessel further comprises:

a blood inlet port; [and]

a control port for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type; and[, wherein said blood-related port comprises at least said control port]

a support interfacing with at least said control port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

10. (Twice Amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood

processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

wherein[:] said blood-related port comprises at least one of a blood inlet port to said blood processing vessel, a red blood cell outlet port to said blood processing vessel, and a control port to said blood processing vessel for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type.

14. (Twice amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

wherein[:] said support comprises means for disposing said blood-related port at a predetermined position within said blood processing channel and independent of a portion of said blood processing vessel through which said blood-related port extends.